

Saddle River Board of Education
Regular Business Meeting Minutes, Wandell School Cafeteria
Wednesday, June 26, 2024, 6:30pm = Board Training, 7:30pm = Regular Meeting

A. Call to Order *The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Kaufman, Board President, at 6:31 PM.*

B. Opening Statement

Statement is hereby made that adequate notice of this meeting was given by:

- Posting written notice prominently on the bulletin board in the vestibule of Wandell School, 97 E. Allendale Road, Saddle River, New Jersey.
- The mailing and/or hand delivery of said notice to the designated newspapers, The Record, The Ridgewood News, and The Town Journal.
- Filing with the Clerk of Saddle River Borough.

C. Roll Call

	Present	Absent
Ms. Kaufman	<u>X</u>	
Ms. Elshami	<u>X</u>	
Ms. Nissirios	<u>X</u>	
Ms. Salazer	<u>X</u>	Present virtually from 6:31 PM - 7:23 PM
Mr. Senger	<u>X</u>	Sworn-in following the flag salute.
Dr. Gina Cinotti, Superintendent		
Kaitlyn Lawler, Business Administrator/Board Secretary		
Victoria Hickey, Vice-Principal		
Approximately 25 members of the Public		

D. Flag Salute

The Board took a recess from 7:23 PM - 7:30 PM.

E. Superintendent's Report

- Revised Safe Return to In-Person Instruction Plan, 6.26.24

Dr. Cinotti stated the approval of the revised Safe Return to In-Person Instruction Plan is required by the NJDOE for the COVID/ESSER funding the district has received for pandemic related items/services such as HVAC maintenance and masks.

- Updated Emergency Virtual Remote Plan 2024-25

The updated Emergency Virtual Remote Plan is required by the NJDOE in case it is necessary for the school to require virtual remote instruction.

- HIB Self-Assessment Submission for 2023-24
- HIB Report - none

F. Harassment Intimidation & Bullying Resolutions

None at this time

- **Reporting**

The Board of Education has received the Superintendent's report of incident(s) of Harassment/Intimidation/Bullying ("HIB") for the following investigations ("First Reporting"):
[TBD]

- **Board Determination**

WHEREAS, the Board of Education [affirms, modifies, reverses] the determinations by the Superintendent regarding the following Harassment/Intimidation/Bullying ("HIB") investigations ("Second Reporting"):
[TBD at Next BOE Meeting]

G. Vice Principal's Report

- Presentation of District Goal Student Voice - Videos (Ms. Graziano & Ms. Kilgallen)

Mrs. Hickey showed the presentations from Ms. Graziano and Ms. Kilgallen.

- Presentation of Student Awards - Ms. Kleinbard
 - *NJ Consortium for the Gifted & Talented Hero Challenge: First Place: Max Patel; Honorable Mention: Olivia Finley*
 - *Panasonic Eco Citizenship Program Competition Winners: London Casey, Olivia Finley, and Allison Park.*

The Board, Administration, and students thanked Mrs. Kleinbard for her efforts.

- *Mrs. Hickey provided an update on Curriculum & Instruction, Student Activities/Events, & Other.*

H. Business Administrator/ Board Secretary's Report

- Approve the appointment of Henry Senger to the vacant position on the Board of Education through December 31, 2024.

This portion of the meeting was moved to after the flag salute.

Ms. Lawler administered the oath of office to Mr. Senger.

"I, (Henry Senger), do solemnly swear that I possess the qualifications prescribed by law for the office of member of the board of education and that I will faithfully, justly, and impartially perform all of the duties of that office according to the best of my ability.

Further, I solemnly swear that I am not disqualified as a voter, nor disqualified as a Board of Education member due to a conviction of a crime or offense listed in N.J.S.A 18A:12-1.

I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of New Jersey and that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same and to the Government established in the United States and this State, under the authority of the people. So help me God."

- Acceptance of Correspondence: *multiple from Ms. Bush, Ms. Goldfischer, Ms. Gildea, Mr. Shamas, Ms. Belthoff, Ms. Conway, Ms. DeBello, Mrs. Pita, Mr. Pita, Ms. Pita, and Mr. Bush.*
- *Ms. Lawler stated under tonight's finance agenda, the Board is approving annual bookkeeping closeout resolutions as we approach the end of the fiscal year on June 30th.. Also, summer facilities projects have been scheduled and are underway. This includes the final phase of the ceiling tile replacements project, phase one of the electrical service upgrade/protection project, window replacements, and the ejector pump/vent in a custodial closet.*

I. Board President's Report

- Presentation, New Jersey School Boards Association Representative, Matt Lee, Board Retreat for Goal Setting. *This portion of the meeting was moved to after the swearing-in of Mr. Senger following the flag salute.*
- *Mrs. Kaufman stated the Board enjoyed attending all the recent graduations.*
- *Mrs. Kaufman congratulated Mr. Senger on joining the Board.*

J. Committee Report(s)*Committee chairs updated the public on the areas noted below.*

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Communications/Public Relations | 6. Technology |
| 2. Curriculum/Instruction | 7. Finance |
| 3. Facilities | 8. Human Resources |
| 4. Negotiations | 9. Transportation |
| 5. Policies | 10. Safety/Wellness |

K. Liaison Report(s)*Liaisons updated the public on the areas noted below.*

- | | |
|--|------------------------------|
| 1. Mayor & Council | 6. Wandell School Foundation |
| 2. NJ School Boards Association Representative | |
| 3. Northern Highlands Board of Education | |
| 4. Ramsey Board of Education | |
| 5. PAWS | |

L. Open Public Meetings Act

Meetings of the Board are open to the public and all members of the community should feel free to participate:

- There are two portions of the meeting reserved for comments from the public; the first at the beginning of the meeting for agenda items only and the second at the end of the meeting for other items.
- If you wish to address the board, please provide your name and address and please limit your comments to 3 minutes.
- Issues raised by the public may or may not be responded to by the board, but all comments will be considered. The board requests that all members of the public be mindful of the rights of other individuals when speaking. Due to confidentiality and legal rights afforded by the state of New Jersey, members of the public are asked to not speak negatively or in a derogatory manner about any employee of the board or any student.

M. Questions or Comments from the Public on Action Items Only*Opened at 8:21PM. Closed at 8:23PM.*

1. *Jean Holden, 48 W. Wildwood Rd., stated she would like to request the June 2024 bills list. Dr. Holden inquired if she would need to provide an OPRA request.*

Ms. Lawler responded that Dr. Holden could submit an OPRA request for the bills list as she had done in the past for a prior month. Further, Ms. Lawler stated that, as previously shared with Dr. Holden, after consultation with surrounding districts if a member of the public requests the Board bills list and OPRA request is usually required.

N. Approval of Minutes

- Regular Meeting May 22, 2024
- Executive Session May 22, 2024
- Special Meeting June 19, 2024
- Executive Session June 19, 2024

Motion: EN

Second: EK

Discussion: N/A

Roll Call Vote

ES: Absent

YE: Y

EN: Y

HS: Abstain

EK: Y

All Motions Passed 3-0

O. Action Items

- **Administration**

A-23240601: Submission & Approval of the Revised Safe Return to In-Person Instruction Plan 2023-24

Be it resolved that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Saddle River Board of Education approves the submission of the Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services to the NJDOE, pending NJDOE approval.

A-23240602: Emergency Virtual or Remote Instruction Plan 2024-25

Be it resolved that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Saddle River Board of Education approves the 2024-25 Emergency Virtual or Remote Instruction Program, submitted to the Bergen County Department of Education, aligned with the NJDOE guidelines/checklists, and as such is subject to change as directed by NJDOE, NJDOH, CDC, or other state/local agencies as dictated by the changing circumstances of COVID-19 pandemic.

A-23240603: Submission of the HIB Self-Assessment Grade 2023-24

Be it resolved that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Saddle River Board of Education approves the submission of School Self-Assessment for Determining Grades under the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act (ABR), as required.

A-23240604: Preparation for the District Professional Development Plan Statement of Assurance 2024-25

Be it resolved that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Saddle River Board of Education adopts the District Professional Development Plan and approves submission of the Statement of Assurance to the office of the Interim Executive County Superintendent.

A-23240605: Preparation for the District Teacher Mentoring Program Plan Statement of Assurance 2024-25

Be it resolved that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Saddle River Board of Education adopts the District Teacher Mentoring Program Plan and approves submission of the Statement of Assurance to the office of the Interim Executive County Superintendent.

A-23240606: Resolution - Kunal Bhatia

WHEREAS, Kunal Bhatia has submitted his resignation effective May 22, 2024 from his position as a member of the Saddle River Board of Education; and

WHEREAS, Kunal Bhatia was elected by the voters of the Borough of Saddle River to the Saddle River Board of Education and sworn in on January 3, 2024;

WHEREAS, Kunal Bhatia served the Board of Education for three (3) months prior to submitting his letter of resignation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, this twenty-sixth of June 2024, that the Board of Education and Administration of the Saddle River School District accepts the resignation of Kunal Bhatia and wishes the very best to him.

A-23240607: Emergency Bus Evacuation Drill Report 2023-24

Be it resolved that upon recommendation of the Superintendent, the Saddle River Board of Education approves the Emergency Bus Evacuation Drill in accordance with NJAC: 6A:27-11.2.

Date of Drill	June 11, 2024
Time of Drill	10:15 AM
Location of Drill	Wandell School
Location of Drill	Front Entrance
Route # of Drill	Field Trip Bus
Name of Person who Supervised Drill	Victorica Hickey, Vice Principal

A-23240608: District & Board Goals 2024-25

Be it resolved that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Saddle River Board of Education approves the district and board goals as listed below:

2024-25 District Goals

1. To review current standards based report cards for Grades K - 3 and revise as needed to align to the revised New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS) in ELA and Math along with revising any additional subject areas, while ensuring criteria is centered around evidence of student outcomes.
2. To explore, review and apply to the New Jersey Sustainable Schools program and Digital School Star program.
3. To showcase staff achievements with implementing best practices learned from the district's instructional consultants through the use of staff documentation logs connecting to the Stronge Evaluation Model.

2024-25 Board Goals

1. Assess the district's communication tools and program to ensure maximum effectiveness and use of district resources.
2. Develop a culture of accountability that is data driven to measure the effectiveness of programs and the satisfaction of stakeholders.
3. To continue the process of reviewing and updating Board of Education apologies and procedures on an ongoing basis to ensure compliance with Federal and State requirements to address local issues.

4.

Motion: EN

Second: YE

Discussion: N/A

Roll Call Vote

ES: Absent

YE: Y

EN: Y

HS: Y

EK: Y

All Motions Passed 4-0

Addendum Resolution: A-23240609: BOE Vacancy Appointment 2024

The Saddle River Board of Education, approves the appointment of Henry Senger to the vacant position on the Board of Education through December 31, 2024.

Addendum Motion: EN Second: YE Discussion: N/A
Roll Call Vote ES: Absent YE: Y EN: Y HS: Abstain EK: Y
All Motions Passed 3-0

- Human Resources**

HR-23240601: Staff Vacancies Between Meetings 2024-25

Be it resolved that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Saddle River Board of Education permits the Superintendent to fill staff vacancies between board meetings, which will then be retroactively approved at the next board meeting.

HR-23240602: Employee Salary Guide Movement

Be it resolved that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Saddle River Board of Education approves the SREA salary guide movement of the following staff member, effective as noted, as per the SREA contract.

Employee	Salary Guide Movement	Effective
15153	MA to MA+15	September 1, 2024

Motion: EK Second: YE Discussion: N/A
Roll Call Vote ES: Absent YE: Y EN: Y HS: Y EK: Y
All Motions Passed 4-0

- Education**

E-23240601: Stronge Evaluation Model 2024-25

Be it resolved that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Saddle River Board of Education approves the Stronge Evaluation Model, for staff and administration for the next school year.

E-23240602: Non-Resident Tuition Student 2024-25

Be it resolved, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Saddle River Board of Education approves the following non-resident tuition students at the rate of \$20,438/student effective September 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025, to be paid in two installments on August 1, 2024 & January 1, 2025

- Student #10697 - Grade 2

E-23240603: Approval of Professional Service Appointment & Contract 2024-25

Be it resolved that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Saddle River Board of Education approves the following professional service appointment & contract from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025.

Vendor Type	Vendor	Estimated Cost
Occupational Therapy	Play Connect Pediatric Therapy LLC, (Karen Nevarez)	\$75/hr, \$250/evaluation

E-23240604: Student Evaluation for the 2024-25 School Year

Be it resolved that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Saddle River Board of Education approves the following evaluation:

Student	Type of Evaluation	Provider	Cost Not to Exceed
A0103	Speech Language	Jill Cooper	\$351.80
A0103	Neurological	NJ Pediatric Neuroscience Institute	\$695.00

E-23240605: Field Trip Destinations 2024-25

Be it resolved upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Saddle River Board of Education approves the following field trip destinations, as listed below:

Destination	Location
Allendale Center for Assisted Living/Brighton Gardens	Allendale/Saddle River, NJ
Apple Store	Woodcliff Lake, NJ
Apple Ridge Orchards	Warwick, NY
Bergen Performing Arts Center	Englewood, NJ
Broadway Theaters	New York, NY
Bronx Zoo	Bronx, NY
Buehler Challenger and Science Center	Paramus, NJ
Challenger Center	Airmont, NY
Ellis Island	NY / NJ
Field Station Dinosaurs	Secaucus, NJ
Flat Rock Brook Nature Center	Englewood, NJ
Fort Lee Historic Park	Fort Lee, NJ
Franklin Mineral Museum	Franklin, NJ
Liberty Science Center	Jersey City, NJ
Maritime Aquarium	Norwalk, CT
Maskers Apple Orchard	Warwick, NY
Montclair State University	Montclair, NJ
Museum of Natural History	New York, NY
Newark Museum	Newark, NJ
NJ Law Center	New Brunswick, NJ
NJ PAC	Newark, NJ
Old Barracks Museum	Trenton, NJ
On The Border	New Brunswick, NJ
P.I.M.	Summit, NJ
Ramapo College	Mahwah, NJ
Ramsey Cinema	Ramsey, NJ
Ramsey Library/Schools (Dater/Smith/Tisdale)	Ramsey, NJ
Rindlaub Field	Saddle River, NJ
Rohslers Allendale Nursery	Allendale, NJ
Saddle River Municipality	Saddle River, NJ
Saddle River Museum	Saddle River, NJ
State Capital	Trenton, NJ
Sterling Hill Mining Museum	Ogdensburg, NJ
Turtle Back Zoo	West Orange, NJ
Van Cortlandt Manor	Croton-on-Hudson, NY
Wandell School Education Foundation, as approved by the Superintendent	Various
Destinations approved by the Superintendent between meetings of the Board	Various

E-23240606: Summer 2024 Academic Support for Out-of-District Student

Be it resolved that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Saddle River Board of Education approves the following academic supports where payment is noted below for non-SREA members, and for SREA members, payment will be paid their 2024-25 hourly rate of salary, per the SREA contract.

Subject	Category	Student	Staff	Pay/Hour	Total Hours	Total Pay	Deadline
ELA & Math	Special Ed	A0058	Cathie Mende	\$53.09	25	\$1,327.25	7/31/2024

Motion: YE

Second: HS

Discussion: N/A

Roll Call Vote

ES: Absent YE: Y

EN: Y

HS: Y

EK: Y

All Motions Passed 4-0

- Finance**

F-23240601: Finance & Operations

Be it resolved that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Saddle River Board of Education approves the following:

- Payment of Bills June 2024
- Board Secretary & Treasurer Reports May 2024
- Transfer Report for May 2024

F-23240602: Summit Management LLC 2024-25

Be it resolved that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Saddle River Board of Education approves the Summit Management LLC at \$125/hour as needed to assist in the business office.

F-23240603: Authorization for Board Secretary to Pay Bills Between Board Meetings 2024-25

Be it resolved that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Saddle River Board of Education authorizes the Board Secretary to pay bills in between meetings of the Board of Education from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 and that these payments be approved at the next regularly scheduled Board Meeting.

F-23240604: Year End Bookkeeping Adjustments 2023-24

Be it resolved that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Saddle River Board of Education authorizes the Business Administrator to make all the necessary year-end bookkeeping adjustments to the books and records of the District in order for them to be in compliance with GAAP.

F-23240605: Annual Check Cancellation 2023-24

Be it resolved that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Saddle River Board of Education approves any outstanding checks from the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, as presented to the Board.

F-23240606: Authorization for Submission & Allocation of ESEA Grant for the Fiscal Year 2025

Be it resolved that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Saddle River Board of Education approves the receipt of grant allocations and submission of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) - Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Consolidated grant funding for Saddle River School District (Wandell School) and the nonpublic (Saddle River Day School), in the amount listed below, upon subsequent approval of the application, per the NJDOE mandate for the 2024-25 school year as follows:

Grant	Public (Wandell School)	Nonpublic (Saddle River Day School)	Totals
Title I - A	\$51,441	\$0	\$51,441
Title II - A	\$1,785	\$7,576	\$9,361
Title IV - A	\$1,907	\$8,093	\$10,000

F-23240607: Submission and Approval of IDEA Part B Grant - 2024-25

Be it resolved that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Saddle River Board of Education authorizes the submission of the IDEA application for the current school year and accepts the grant award of the funds upon subsequent approval of the application.

Grant	Public (Wandell School)	Nonpublic (Saddle River Day School)	Totals
IDEA Basic	\$38,065	\$82,475	\$120,540
IDEA Preschool	\$4,533	\$0	\$4,533

F-23240608: Salaries Funded by Federal Grants 2024-25

Be it resolved that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Saddle River Board of Education approves the employee salaries to be funded as follows, as required by NJDOE for state monitoring purposes:

Employee	Grant	Percent Amount	Dollar Amount
15156	ESEA, Title I	42%	\$31,214

F-23240609: IMSE: Orton Gillingham Morphology Plus Training 2024-25

Be it resolved that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Saddle River Board of Education approves the proposal for the Saddle River School District to host Orton Gillingham Morphology Plus Training by the Institute for Multi-Sensory Education (IMSE) on November 18 - 22, 2024 at a cost not to exceed \$1,510 per participant which includes the one-time \$4,000 travel fee funded by the district budget and will host 25 participants to run the program, where regional districts will register with IMSE directly.

F-23240610: Parent Transportation Contracts 2024-25

Be it resolved that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Saddle River Board of Education approves the following parent contracts for transportation, as presented to the Board, which is permissible under NJAC 6A:27-7.7, pending county approval.

F-23240611: Travel

Be it resolved that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Saddle River Board of Education approves the following staff/administration travel requirements (room rate accommodations, occupancy taxes/fees presently unknown associated therein and other costs in trips. Meals for overnight will be reimbursed in accordance with policy/law):

Who	What	Where	When	Estimated Registration Fee
Cathie Mende	Differentiated Instruction: Meeting Students Where They Are & Strategies That Work	Demarest, NJ	12/17/24	\$450
Karolina Weber	Differentiated Instruction: Meeting Students Where They Are & Strategies That Work	Demarest, NJ	12/17/24	\$450
Cathie Mende	Learning from Head to Toe	Demarest, NJ	1/21/25	\$450
Karolina Weber	Learning from Head to Toe	Demarest, NJ	1/21/25	\$450
Cathie Mende	Strategic Phonological Awareness Instruction: Screening Tools & Instructional Techniques	Demarest, NJ	3/20/25	\$450
Karolina Weber	Strategic Phonological Awareness Instruction: Screening Tools & Instructional Techniques	Demarest, NJ	3/20/25	\$450
Gina Cinotti	Institute for Education Innovation Workshops	Varies	Varies	\$0
Gina Cinotti	Bergen County Association of School Administrators	Paramus, NJ	Varies	\$0
Victoria Hickey	Bergen County Curriculum Consortium	Varies	Varies	TBD
Victoria Hickey	Bergen County Principals/Vice Principals Association	Varies	Varies	TBD
Kaitlyn Lawler	Bergen County Association of School Business Officials	TBD	Varies/Monthly	TBD
Kaitlyn Lawler	Northeast Bergen County School Board Insurance Group	TBD	Varies	TBD
Leslie Boel	NJ Special Education Administrators Association	TBD	Varies/Monthly	TBD
Leslie Boel	Region I Special Services	Ramsey, NJ	Varies/Monthly	\$0
Administrators	Bergen County Women in Leadership	Varies	Varies	\$0
Laura Boyajian	ISME Orton Gillingham Morphology Plus	Saddle River, NJ	Nov. 18 - 22	\$1,510
Angela Penna	ISME Orton Gillingham Morphology Plus	Saddle River, NJ	Nov. 18 - 22	\$1,510
Ilyssa Zullo	ISME Orton Gillingham Morphology Plus	Saddle River, NJ	Nov. 18 - 22	\$1,510
Catherine Mende	ISME Orton Gillingham Morphology Plus	Saddle River, NJ	Nov. 18 - 22	\$1,510
Ivana Tandara	ISME Orton Gillingham Morphology Plus	Saddle River, NJ	Nov. 18 - 22	\$1,510
Kerri Budds	ISME Orton Gillingham Morphology Plus	Saddle River, NJ	Nov. 18 - 22	\$1,510
Lisa Graziano	Get Your Teach On	Las Vegas, NV	Jan. 19-21	\$500
Tonianne Dente	Get Your Teach On	Las Vegas, NV	Jan. 19-21	\$500

F-23240612: Transfer of Current Surplus to Capital Reserve

WHEREAS, the Saddle River Board of Education has determined that the Capital Reserve account be funded in an amount up to the maximum allowed by law; NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Saddle River Board of Education that it hereby authorizes the district's School Business Administrator to make this transfer consistent with all applicable laws and regulations.

F-23240613: Transfer of Current Surplus to Maintenance Reserve

WHEREAS, NJAC 6A:23A-14.3 and 6A:23A-14.4 permit a Board of Education to establish and/or deposit into certain reserve accounts at year end, and WHEREAS, the aforementioned statutes authorize procedures, under the authority of the Commissioner of Education, which permit a board of education to transfer unanticipated excess current revenue or unexpended appropriations into reserve accounts during the month of June by board resolution, and WHEREAS, the Saddle River Board of Education wishes to transfer unanticipated excess current year revenue or unexpended appropriations from the general fund into a Maintenance Reserve account at year end, and WHEREAS, the Saddle River Board of Education has determined that the Maintenance Reserve account be funded in an amount up to the maximum allowed by law; NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Saddle River Board of Education that it hereby authorizes the district's School Business Administrator to make this transfer consistent with all applicable laws and regulations.

F-23240614: Transfer of Current Surplus to Tuition Reserve

WHEREAS, the Saddle River Board of Education wishes to establish a Tuition Reserve pursuant to N.J.S.A 18A:7F-41c(1) to finance unanticipated general fund expenditures, and WHEREAS, such emergency reserve accounts may be funded by Board Resolution at year end of any unanticipated revenue or unexpended line item appropriation; WHEREAS, the Saddle River Board of Education has determined that the Emergency Reserve account be funded in an amount up to the maximum allowed by law; NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Saddle River Board of Education that it hereby authorizes the district's School Business Administrator to make this transfer consistent with all applicable laws and regulations.

F-23240615: Donation Acceptance for 2024-25

Be it resolved that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Saddle River Board of Education accepts the donations from the Saddle River Garden Club for \$1,500.

Motion: EK

Second: HS

Discussion: N/A

Roll Call Vote

ES: Absent

YE: Y

EN: Y

HS: Y

EK: Y

All Motions Passed 4-0

P. Old Business N/A

Q. New Business N/A

R. Questions or Comments from the Public on Other Items*Opened at 8:27PM. Closed at 8:50PM.*

1. *Charles Todd, 29 Locust Lane, reiterated from the last Board Middle School Exploration Community Meeting that residents on Locust Lane did not receive the Board mailer on the middle school exploration/feasibility study due to this street sometimes being classified as Upper Saddle River, not Saddle River. Mr. Todd inquired if he could attend the meeting where the Board will meet to further discuss the financial analysis of the feasibility study. Mr. Todd asked the Board to confirm if the Borough Council's response that they do not have any influence over the Board's decision regarding the middle school and that both entities operate separately is true. Additionally, Mr. Todd asked if the middle school is evaluated every ten years, when the decision of the course of action typically takes place. Also, who decided on the vendor for the feasibility study. Finally, Mr. Todd stated his opinion on the feasibility study.*

Mrs. Kaufman stated while she did not attend the last Board Middle School Exploration Community Meeting, she was made aware of Mr. Todd's concerns and double checked with the printer of the mailer that all residents in the 07458 zip code (shared by both Saddle River and Upper Saddle River) were sent the mailer. Ms. Elshami stated she lives on a street that is sometimes flagged as Upper Saddle River and was not excluded from receiving the mailer.

Mrs. Kaufman responded that the first meeting further discussing the financial analysis of the feasibility study will be Board and Administration only then shared with the public at another meeting.

Mrs. Kaufman stated the Board and Council operate separately. The Board respects the line between both entities to not get involved in each other's business.

Mrs. Kaufman stated typically when the send/receive contracts are up for renewal, approximately every ten years, the Board does an evaluation of the education at Smith Middle School. Previous Boards had other methods of doing this. The current Board chose to do a feasibility study to follow the formal procedures required before any change to the middle school education could be considered. Ms. Lawler clarified that the last feasibility study on file is from 2001, before the current study.

Ms. Lawler stated that the Board appointed Special Counsel at the recommendation of the Board attorney to conduct the feasibility study.

2. *Tom Weng, 69 Fox Hedge Rd., asked if he could be invited to attend the meeting where the Board will meet to further discuss the financial analysis of the feasibility study. Mr. Weng provided his opinion on the feasibility study.*

Mrs. Kaufman stated she answered Mr. Weng's question in her response to Mr. Todd.

3. *Jean Holden, 48 W. Wildwood Rd., congratulated Ms. Kaufman, Ms. Nissirios, and Ms. Elshami's children on their recent graduations. Dr. Holden stated she enjoyed the student presentations from Mrs. Kleinbard. Also, Dr. Holden stated her understanding is that Ramsey will most likely legally challenge Saddle River if the Board decided to return the middle school students and a middle school at Wandell cannot compare to the education provided at Smith. Therefore, she inquired why there was a feasibility study. Finally, Dr. Holden stated she heard that the Board is considering a nonbinding referendum vote on the possibility of returning the middle school students to Saddle River. Dr. Holden asked if the Board could provide a survey to residents instead.*

Mrs. Kaufman and Ms. Elshami stated the Board is reviewing their options and would have to ensure the integrity of a proper survey was maintained.

4. *Jennifer Belthoff, 25 Overlook Dr., stated her support for what Ramsey offers to students and her opinion that a middle school at Wandell cannot provide the same education, extracurricular activities, and sports as currently received by students. Ms. Belthoff asked that the middle school exploration be put to a stop.*

Mrs. Kaufman thanked Ms. Belthoff for her comment and said all comments are considered.

5. *Shannon Carretta, 185 Chestnut Ridge Rd., asked that the district website include the links to all that Ramsey has to offer, previously sent in a newsletter. Ms. Carretta stated she is grateful for the partnership with Ramsey and what they offer students.
Ms. Carretta also shared her opinion on the former first day of school tradition of an all school outdoor flag salute pre-COVID which has since been stopped due to safety/security reasons.*

Mrs. Kaufman stated the district website is currently being updated to be ADA compliant and her suggestion for the website will be considered.

Dr. Cinotti responded that at the last PAWS meeting, the parent organization offered to purchase a photo op set up for the first day of school for families to gather pictures to hopefully create a new first day tradition. Also, Dr. Cinotti stated in 2019 the school had a surprise NJDOE security visit where procedures were reviewed including the first day flag salute.

6. *Dr. Doug Holden, 48 W. Wildwood Rd., stated his opinion on his daughter's bus stop for the 2023-24 school year. Dr. Holden also shared his opinion on the appointment of the previous two Board vacancies and Board business.*

Ms. Kaufman stated that the Board complies with the guidelines outlined by the district's transportation provider/bus company. The district was informed that all stops for this route would be corner stops again.

Ms. Kaufman said the Board follows NJSBA policy on public comment.

Ms. Kaufman also dismissed some of Dr. Holden's claims against the Board.

7. *Nancy Bush, 3 Pell Farm Rd., thanked the Board for all of their hard work.
Ms. Bush stated she is looking forward to seeing the more detailed financial analysis of the feasibility study as well as a comparison between Ramsey Smith Middle School and what a proposed Saddle River middle school would look like.
Ms. Bush inquired what the estimated costs of possible litigation from Ramsey if Saddle River decided to petition the NJDOE to return the middle school students back to Saddle River would be.
Ms. Bush shared positive feedback about Ramsey schools and stated her concern families would send their children to private schools if a middle school were to return to Saddle River.*

Ms. Kaufman responded that she appreciates all of Ms. Bush's comments. Also, the Board and Administration will be working hard over the summer reviewing the feasibility study.

8. *Fran Dettra, 54 E. Allendale Rd., said she attended the previous Board Middle School Exploration Community Meeting and stated her support for Ramsey. Ms. Dettra further stated her opinion that if a Saddle River middle school cannot meet or exceed what Ramsey is currently offering she suggested remaining in Ramsey.*
9. *Laurene Todd, 29, Locust Lane, suggested that a Saddle River middle school would have to be on par with what Ramsey is currently offering, and does not seem feasible. Also, Ms. Todd inquired about how the Board will ensure that all Board communication is being sent and received by all of the Saddle River community.*

Ms. Kaufman thanked Ms. Dettra & Ms. Todd for their comments & stated the Board will hold additional meetings.

S. Board Member Comments

Ms. Elshami congratulated all the graduates, thanked the Saddle River Garden Club for their generous donation, and welcomed Mr. Senger to the Board.

T. Executive Session *No Executive Session.*

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231 of the Laws of 1975 provides that a public body may exclude the public from that portion of a meeting of which the public body discusses certain matters for which confidentiality is required as permitted in Section 7B of the act. WHEREAS, the items that are permitted to be discussed in executive session are as follows:

1. a matter rendered confidential by federal or state law
2. a matter in which release of information would impair the right to receive government funds
3. material the disclosure of which constitutes an unwarranted invasion of individual privacy
4. a collective bargaining agreement and/or negotiations related to it
5. a matter involving the purchase, lease, or acquisition of real property with public funds
6. protection of public safety and property and/or investigations of possible violations or violations of law
7. pending or anticipated litigation or contract negotiations and/or matters of attorney-client privilege
8. specific prospective or current employees unless all who could be adversely affected request an open session
9. deliberation after a public hearing that could result in a civil penalty or other loss

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education will be discussing items _____.

Action may (or may not) take place on these items. The matters discussed in executive session shall be disclosed to the public when the need for confidentiality no longer exists.

U. Adjournment

Motion: YE Second: HS Vote: 4-0 Time: 9:04 PM